

Central Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



Cooperative Connections

AUGUST 2015 VOL. 16 NO. 4



CO-OPS PREPARE FOR 75TH STURGIS RALLY

Pg-8

Schlimgen Steps In



Ken Schlimgen
General Manager

This is my first writing as acting General Manager for your cooperative. I want to start by saying I am grateful for the trust your board of directors has placed in me. I also want to thank Loren Noess for his mentoring and leadership. I wish Loren and Nancy the best as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

I was born and raised on a small farm near Dimock, SD—yes, the small town famous for cheese made at Dimock Dairy. One of my first jobs as a teenager was working at the cheese plant. Working on the farm and at the cheese plant was physically demanding work. I was anxious to learn a trade, and so I enrolled at Mitchell Technical Institute.

After graduating, I worked as an electrician in Iowa and then came back to South Dakota. In 1985, I started my career with the cooperative installing and maintaining the cooperative's load management equipment. I also provided advice to members on topics like energy conservation, heating and cooling systems, new technologies and electric safety. In 1990, I was promoted to the Manager of Member Services & Marketing, a position I have thoroughly enjoyed over the past 25 years.

My wife, JoAnn, and I will celebrate our 30th wedding anniversary in September. We have two children, Kelli and Neil. Kelli will finish her teaching degree at Dakota State University this fall and is engaged to be married in January. Neil is a sophomore pursuing an engineering degree at South Dakota State University. Our home is in Mitchell.

Under Loren's leadership, your cooperative has seen a lot of changes, and I think change is the new norm. One big change we are currently working through is the new rule which affects electric water heaters. The new rule from the Department of Energy no longer allows the manufacturing of electric tank water heaters larger than 55 gallon in size, unless the water heater is equipped with an "activation lock." The "activation lock" works with the cooperative's load management program, but it is yet to be designed. This is why electric water heaters larger than 55 gallons are not currently available. We have 50 gallon water heaters in stock and are anxiously awaiting the production of the larger tanks equipped with the activation lock system.

Your employees are very busy again this year. Your cooperative is investing in the replacement of approximately 25 miles of overhead power lines with underground cable again this year. The groundbreaking for the new service center in Wessington Springs was held in June and that project is expected to be completed in late October. This month, your cooperative is constructing a new solar PV system at the Betts Road Service Center west of Mitchell. Once this project is completed, we will be conducting informational meetings to share what we have learned with you. We also have plans to launch a new program titled Operation Round Up that will raise money to be used to benefit our local communities, and educational and charitable projects. I am excited to see all of these projects get completed and share them with each of you.

Your electric cooperative does so much more than provide electric power. Our original purpose was to improve the quality of life for our members. By providing electricity, our members could light their homes and farms, and finally get running water, and appliances to make life easier. Our purpose really has not changed. Reliable electric service is still important but so is educating ourselves and our members on new technologies. All these cooperative services and programs improve our quality of life. We depend on reliable electric service more than ever today.

Both Loren and I know that for an electric cooperative to be successful, it takes more than just leadership. Your cooperative is blessed with an outstanding team of very talented employees. These are the folks that get the job done, restore power, and provide customer service. I have been honored to work with this fine group of individuals over the past 30 years, and I challenge them to continue to work safely and efficiently for you.

I am very aware of your cooperative's role and how our policies and rates directly affect you, our member owners. I look forward to serving you and our employee team.

**"Your electric cooperative
does so much more than
provide electric power."**

Central Electric Cooperative Connections

(USPS 018-963)

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Central Electric Cooperative Connections is published monthly by Central Electric Cooperative PO Box 850, 25487 403rd Ave, Mitchell SD 57301. Families subscribe to Cooperative Connections as part of their electric cooperative membership. Central Electric Cooperative Connections purpose is to provide reliable, helpful information to electric cooperative members on matters pertaining to rural electrification and better rural living.

Subscription information: Electric cooperative members devote 25 cents from their monthly electric payments for a subscription. Nonmember subscriptions are available for \$12 annually. Periodical Postage Paid at Mitchell, SD 57301 and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Central Electric Cooperative Connections, PO Box 850, Mitchell SD 57301 TELEPHONE (605)996-7516 or 1-800-477-2892; FAX (605)996-0869; e-mail cec@centralelec.coop. Design assistance by TDG Communications, Deadwood.

Office Hours

Monday through Friday,
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

24 - Hour Service
1-605-996-7516 or
1-800-477-2892

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Mission Statement

Providing Reliable Energy and
Services at a Good Value

This institution is an equal
opportunity provider and
employer.

Co-op News

AG Appreciation Day



Gate Sponsored by
Central Electric Cooperative
and South Dakota's
Touchstone Energy Cooperatives

Wednesday, Aug 5, 2015
W.H. Lyon Fairground,
Sioux Falls, SD

Free Admission
with ticket until 1:00 pm
Free Lunch & Free Entertainment
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

We have a limited number of free tickets
available for members to pick up at the
Betts Road Service Center.

Take Steps to Avoid Injury or Death While Walking

We rarely are more vulnerable than when walking in urban areas, crossing busy streets and negotiating traffic. And we all are pedestrians from time to time, so it's important to pay attention to what is going on around us.

Cell Phone Distracted Walking

It has become such a big problem in recent years that Injury Facts® 2015, the statistical report on unintentional deaths and injuries published by the National Safety Council, for the first time has included statistics on cell phone distracted walking.

According to Injury Facts, distracted walking incidents involving cell phones accounted for more than 11,100 injuries between 2000 and 2011.

- 52 percent of cell phone distracted walking injuries happen at home
- 68 percent of those injured are women
- 54 percent are age 40 or younger
- Nearly 80 percent of the injuries were due to a fall.

The Vehicle Factor

While many communities are implementing measures to become more "walkable," like adding more paths and traffic-calming measures, there still is a long way to go to keep pedestrians safe. Malls surrounded by parking lots, few sidewalks, blind intersections and high traffic areas all contribute to pedestrian fatalities and injuries.

According Injury Facts 2015:

- In 2013, 6,100 pedestrians were killed by motor vehicles
- That same year, about 160,000 pedestrian injuries required medical attention
- 23 percent of deaths and injuries result from pedestrians darting into the street, with the majority of those younger than age 15
- The number of pedestrian deaths has decreased significantly since the 1970s; during that decade, deaths were between 8,400 and 10,300
- During the decade from 2002 to 2013, death rates didn't change much; they hovered around 6,000, with a low of 5,300 in 2009

Head Up, Phone Down

While pedestrian-vehicle injuries are the fifth leading cause of death for children ages 5 to 19, according to SafeKids.org, no age group is immune. Here are a few tips from NHTSA and NSC for children and adults of all ages:

- Look left, right and left again before crossing the street; looking left a second time is necessary because a car can cover a lot of distance in a short amount of time
- Make eye contact with drivers of oncoming vehicles to make sure they see you
- Be aware of drivers even when you're in a crosswalk; vehicles have blind spots
- Don't wear headphones while walking
- Never use a cell phone or other electronic device while walking
- If your view is blocked, move to a place where you can see oncoming traffic
- Never rely on a car to stop
- Children younger than 10 should cross the street with an adult
- Only cross at designated crosswalks
- Wear bright and/or reflective clothing
- Walk in groups

Source: nsc.org

Always call 8-1-1 **BEFORE** you dig.

**Aug. 11 is
National One Call Day.**



Kids' Corner Safety Poster "Take a look when lifting up the bucket!"



Josie Mousel, 10 years old

Josie is the daughter of John and Jessie Mousel, Colman, S.D. They are members of Sioux Valley Energy, Colman, S.D.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

Succulent Salads



Cran-Chicken-Corn Salad

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 (13 oz.) can premium chicken breast, drained | 1/2 cup Vidalia onion salad dressing |
| 1 can whole kernel corn, drained | 1/2 cup chopped red onion |
| 2 T. Miracle Whip | 1/2 cup Craisins |

Mix together all ingredients and serve cold.

M.J. Knopp, Madison, MN

Strawberry Pecan Pretzel Salad

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1 cup crushed pretzels | 1/2 cup granulated sugar |
| 1/2 cup pecans, chopped | 1 tsp. vanilla |
| 3/4 cup brown sugar | 8 oz. whipped topping |
| 3/4 cup butter, melted | 2 cups fresh strawberries, diced |
| 8 oz. cream cheese, softened | |

Mix together pretzels, pecans, brown sugar and melted butter; spread in a pan. Bake at 400°F. for 7 minutes. Cool, then break into small pieces. Beat together cream cheese, sugar and vanilla. Fold in whipped topping. Before serving, stir the strawberries and pretzel/pecans pieces into the cream cheese mixture.

Lillian Schlechter, Scotland

Party Salad

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 (3 oz.) pkgs. lemon gelatin | 1 cup cream, whipped |
| 2 cans chicken rice soup | 1/2 cup nuts, chopped |
| 1 can tuna | 1 cup Miracle Whip |
| 2 cups chopped celery | |

Dissolve gelatin in hot soup; cool and refrigerate until partially set. Pour hot water over tuna in strainer; drain. Whip jello; fold in remaining ingredients. Prepare salad the day before so it sets well.

Zona Schanzenbach, Aberdeen

Garbage Salad

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 16 oz. dry pasta | 1 cup milk |
| 6 cups raw vegetables, any combination | 2 pkgs. dry Ranch salad dressing mix |
| 2 cups mayonnaise | |

Cook pasta, drain and cold rinse. Cut any combination of vegetables into a large bowl. Add pasta. In separate bowl, mix mayonnaise, milk and dry Ranch. Add dressing to pasta/vegetables. Option: Substitute 1 (16 oz.) bottle of Italian dressing for Ranch dressing.

Tina Suhr, Dimock

Southwestern Bean and Quinoa Salad With Cilantro-Lime Dressing

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 (15 oz.) can READ Southwestern Bean Salad | Dressing: |
| 1/2 cup red cherry tomatoes, halved | 1-1/2 T. canola oil |
| 1/2 cup yellow cherry tomatoes, halved | 1 T. fresh lime juice |
| 1/2 cup chopped tomatillos | 1/2 tsp. shredded lime peel |
| 1/2 cup thin bell pepper strips | 1/8 tsp. cayenne pepper (or to taste) |
| 2 cups cooked quinoa | 1/4 cup chopped cilantro |

Drain bean salad. Discard liquid or save for another use. In large bowl, combine bean salad, tomatoes, tomatillos and bell pepper. For dressing, whisk together oil, lime juice, peel and cayenne. Stir in cilantro. Toss with quinoa. Add to bean salad mixture; toss lightly to combine. Serve at room temperature or chilled. Makes 4 servings.

Nutritional information per serving: 250 calories; 10 g fat; 8 g protein; 35 g carbohydrate; 7 g dietary fiber; 0 mg cholesterol; 8.98 mg iron; 210 mg sodium; 0.12 mg thiamin; 781.13 IU vitamin A; 20.44 mg vitamin C

Pictured, Cooperative Connections

Summer Bean Salad

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 (15 oz.) can green beans, drained | 1 cup sliced green pepper |
| 1 (15 oz.) can yellow beans, drained | 1 cup sliced yellow pepper |
| 1 (15 oz.) can kidney beans, rinsed and drained | 1 cup chopped celery |
| 1 (15 oz.) can black beans, rinsed and drained | 1 cup sliced black olives |
| 1 (8 oz.) bag frozen peas | |
| 1 cup sliced onion | |
- Dressing:**
- | |
|--------------------------|
| 1-1/2 cups white vinegar |
| 3/4 cup sugar |
| 1/4 cup oil |
| 1 tsp. salt, optional |

In a large bowl, combine all vegetables. Stir together dressing ingredients, mixing well so sugar dissolves. Pour over vegetables. Refrigerate.

Jane Ham, Rapid City

Oreo Fluff Salad

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 box instant chocolate pudding | 1 (8 oz.) container Cool Whip |
| 2 cups cold milk | 1 pkg. Oreo cookies, crushed |

Prepare pudding with milk according to package directions. Refrigerate for 15 minutes. Fold in Cool Whip and Oreos. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours. Note: cheesecake or white chocolate pudding may also be used.

Jillian Nedved, Harrisburg

Please send your favorite garden produce, pasta and crockpot recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2015. All entries must include your name, mailing address, telephone number and cooperative name.

Pennings Selected as YLC Delegate

In June, students from across the nation, including eight students from our service area, spent a week in Washington, D.C. for Youth Tour. This trip has proven to have an impact on students, and this year was no exception.

Part of the trip includes Youth Day and selecting a delegate from each state to serve on the Youth Leadership Council (YLC). Aften Pennings, Stickney, was selected on behalf of South Dakota.

Pennings will return to Washington, D.C. in July for a leadership workshop to further learn about the electric cooperative industry. Pennings will also be invited to the NRECA Annual Meeting next February in New Orleans, Louisiana.

This is the second year in a row that South Dakota's YLC delegate has been a representative from Central Electric.



Above: South Dakota students in front of the White House
Below: Youth Tour students from Central Electric pictured at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial



"Central Electric, I cannot thank you enough for giving me and 7 other amazing young people the opportunity known as Youth Tour. When I stepped onto the plane very early that Friday morning, I was completely unprepared for what was about to happen.

In those next 6 days, I learned several things. First, I learned how to become more responsible. We had to make sure we woke up on time to get breakfast. We were responsible for bringing water along every day, and we had to choose comfort over fashion (this decision got easier as the week progressed).

We also learned more about the government on a federal level and exactly how much work our congressmen put in! Our voices do matter, and our representatives want to hear what we have to say!

Next, Brenda Kleinjan showed us what true leadership looked like. Our tour director is almost superhuman! Brenda taught me that it wasn't a big deal when things didn't go according to plan (like when the elevator broke as we were at the top of the Washington Monument so we got to take the stairs)! She encouraged us to take responsibility for our own actions, and always led by example.

The 43 other youth from South Dakota were some of the best people I have ever met. We all had so many things in common, and it helped us form a bond and several lasting friendships. For me, the people were my favorite part of the whole experience. It was because of them that I didn't want to go home! Thank you, Central, for giving me the opportunity for so many new friends!

Central Electric Cooperative is making a difference. You are positively affecting your members and the surrounding community, but you are also impacting youth by giving us these opportunities.

It was most definitely the trip of a lifetime, and I can't wait to represent Central and the state of South Dakota at the Youth Leadership Council in July! Again, Thank you!"

*Sincerely,
Aften Pennings*



Aften Pennings was selected as South Dakota's delegate for the Youth Leadership Council

Groundbreaking in Wessington Springs

On June 4, Central Electric and the Wessington Springs community celebrated the groundbreaking of Central Electric's new warehouse, located in the former Industrial Park Area east of the town across from Springs Animal Health.

The project consists of a new 60' x 85' warehouse/shop which includes a small office area but will be used mostly to store trucks, equipment and material for the construction and maintenance of Central Electric's distribution lines in rural Jerauld and Buffalo counties. Aside from the building, the project also includes a fenced outdoor storage area and an emergency generator.

Central Electric employees Don Patton and Phil LaBore will be based in the new warehouse/shop. Summit Contracting of Platte is the general contractor for the project.

The current warehouse building can no longer meet the cooperative's needs. Modifications have been previously made to the current building to adapt, but it is financially wise to invest in the new project now.

Completion of the project is scheduled for later this fall.

Following the groundbreaking, the Wessington Springs Area Chamber & Development hosted an open house at the Springs Inn Cafe honoring General Manager Loren Noess' retirement.

Pictured at the groundbreaking are (left to right) Brian Bultje, Roger Campbell, Don Patton, Loren Noess, Mark Reindl, Kim Burg, Quinton Burg, Kathy Voorhees, Butch Morrison, Jon Niemeyer, Dave Gaulke and Jason Brown.



The future image of the new 60' x 85' Wessington Springs building located in the former Industrial Park Area across from Springs Animal Health.



Come and See Us!
South Dakota's electric co-ops be on hand at these events:



Stop by the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives building (Booth 215) at Dakotafest for safety information, energy efficiency displays and more!



Check out the latest energy efficiency and technical displays and more at the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth in the Expo Building!

Register to WIN at both shows!



Getting Ready for the Rumble

Co-ops Prepare for 75th Sturgis Rally

By Brenda Kleinjan

TIME WILL TELL EXACTLY HOW LARGE THE 75TH Sturgis Motorcycle Rally will be, but most expect it will be large. Very, very large.

The rally's 60th gathering in 2000 brought an estimated 633,000 people to the town of just more than 6,600 people. More recent rallies have been smaller, with 442,000 attending in 2014. This year, attendance is expected to exceed 750,000, with some estimates as high as 1.2 million.

The influx of people for the annual August event puts pressure on infrastructure from roads and transportation corridors to electricity and utilities.

For homeowners and landowners, the impact of

having an extra RV or two or three parked on their property may bring hidden surprises if those units are plugged in and air conditioners are cranked up to battle hot weather.

Responding to those trouble calls can be tricky for area electric cooperatives. Cooperatives have been busy staging supplies for easy access during the rally to hopefully avoid congested thoroughfares.

"Our biggest problem will probably be getting around because of traffic," said Mike Letcher, manager of operations for West River Electric Association in Wall, S.D.

WREA serves one of the area's largest camp-





Left: Banners welcoming bikers are a common sight in August in western South Dakota.

Opposite Page: The night lights up at the Buffalo Chip during the rally.

On the cover: A trio of motorcyclists are silhouetted against the night sky.

Cover Photo Courtesy S.D. Tourism/Chad Coppess

grounds – the Buffalo Chip Campground on the east edge of Sturgis.

“We try to have two guys up there during the rally,” Letcher said. The linemen, equipped with infrared cameras, inspect the system, looking for hot spots which signal a malfunction.

“We typically burn up a transformer every year,” said Letcher, noting that they keep a couple of the devices on hand for emergency repairs.

Like WREA, Butte Electric Cooperative in Newell, S.D., is also planning ahead.

“We’re anticipating traffic issues,” said Brett Fosheim, manager of operations at Butte Electric. “It makes it harder for our guys to get around.”

The co-op has an outpost in Sturgis, but gaining access to the building requires the crews to cross the city’s main highway which is extremely congested during the motorcycle gathering.

“Getting the employees to the outposts and offices is the biggest challenge,” Fosheim said. In addition to having linemen based in Newell and Sturgis, the co-op also has four workers in Spearfish.

Even the backways, usually known only to locals, will see traffic, lots of traffic.

“We see cycles 30 to 50 miles off of pavement, riding on gravel,” noted Fosheim.

While the rally provides for some variety, both co-ops still have their normal day-to-day work to see to.

For Fosheim, his co-op plans to stop working on a project in Spearfish Canyon in late July and early August, but, work in other areas will go on.

“We have some bigger projects in Butte County that we’ll probably keep working on as they’re pretty rural,” Fosheim said.

Planning for the logistics of getting employees around during the rally is just one challenge the co-ops are faced with.

As the region’s population swells for the annual gathering, the demand for electricity soars.

At Butte Electric, the co-op has a set of dedicated regulators that are turned on just for the rally. The equipment helps the co-op maintain its electrical service.

“There are usually some surprises; we’ve had troubles in the

past, but hopefully we’re beefed up this year,” said Fosheim.

Another component of Fosheim’s game plan for the rally is establishing travel corridors and staging co-op materials and equipment strategically to avoid traffic snarls.

For West River Electric, the Buffalo Chip Campground will become one of the co-op’s top loads. Typically, the co-op’s largest customer is about a 1.5 megawatt load. The Chip is poised to surpass those energy needs during the rally.

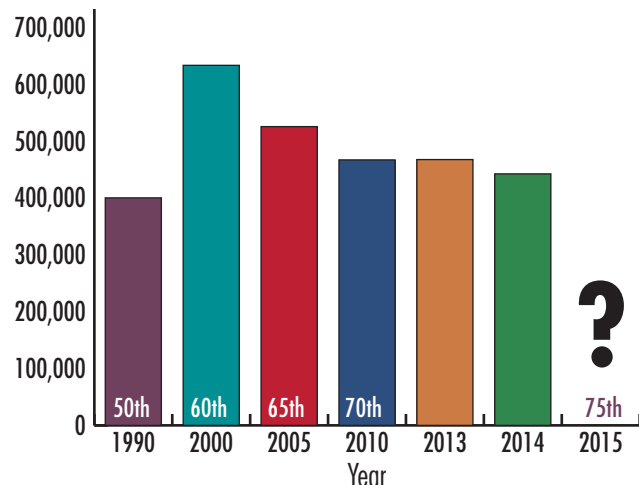
“The hardest part is trying to predict the load. You don’t know how many people are going to show up or what the weather will be like,” said Letcher.

Both Letcher and Fosheim agree that milder temperatures will go a long way for making the rally more manageable for everyone.

“The numbers and weather are going to be what the problem is,” Fosheim said.

Letcher concurred. “How it all ends up depends on the weather,” he said.

PAST STURGIS MOTORCYCLE RALLY ATTENDANCE FIGURES



Source: <http://www.sturgismotorcyclerally.com/rally-info/faq-and-statistics>

June Weather Challenges Crews

By Courtney J Deinert

Bad weather that rolled in during the month of June forced our crews to roll out.

A major storm passing through on the evening of June 27 marked the fourth time in June that crews headed out to restore power after weather-related damage.

In the evening of Tuesday, June 9, straight line winds leveled fourteen 3-phase poles east of Carthage. It is estimated more than twenty members in Miner County were affected. We were able to backfeed power to keep our members on while our crews concentrated to that area to quickly rebuild this line.

On Saturday, June 20, a widespread storm passed through the service area during the early hours. Buffalo, northern Brule, and western Jerauld counties were hit the hardest with damage across all counties. Crews received calls and headed out around 3:00 AM and worked until all residential power was restored around 10:30 pm on Saturday night. Crews returned to repairs at 6:30 am the next morning and worked the majority of Sunday.

Soon after, a second cell moved through our service area around 3:00 am on Monday, June 22. Lightning, high winds, and consequential debris caused damage system wide. Those hit hardest were in Buffalo county and in Sanborn county.

Amongst the weather damage above ground, crews responded to an underground fault, needing to repair the underground line, around 4:30 pm on June 20 in Aurora County.

Between the two storms that weekend, repairs included approximately 20 three phase poles, 34 single phase poles, and several leaning poles that will be addressed once all wells and irrigation pivots are taken care of.

All outpost crews were needed to make the repairs. However, Central Electric required no outside assistance from other coops. On average, crews put in a 70-80 hour work week with the majority of those hours on the weekend and even after dark. Crews put in 18-24 hour work days.

The fourth storm passed down through Sanborn and Davison counties around 9:15 pm on Saturday, June 27. While pole loss was minimal, several members' farms were hit hard. Crews went out at 9:00 pm Saturday evening and worked through the night until 10:00 am Sunday morning. Crews averaged a 60 hour work week after this storm.

With each storm, winds exceeded 90 mph. The majority of the line damage was caused by tree and building debris blown through the lines. In some cases, tree belts 100 feet away from the line would cause the damage.

Currently, crews continue to clean up from the storm, including debris and leaning poles. The electricians and member services department are also working hard to help our members restore their farm yards following the storms.

When these natural events occur, normal work schedules are disrupted. We ask our members to be patient as routine projects take lower priority when crews need to restore residential power, well services, and irrigation.

We also ask our members to be patient with both our office staff and after hours dispatch. Nearly 2/3 of the coops across the state are also experiencing damage from these storms. Central Electric shares a dispatch service with some neighboring coops. Therefore, you may experience being put on hold when calling in.

Please be assured that whatever comes along, our crews are determined to keep your lights on!



Above: An irrigation pivot lies upside down in Buffalo County following the storm following June 20.

Below: Leaning poles caused by the storms across the territory will be addressed once well and irrigation services have restored.



July 1, 2015 Declared “Loren Noess Day”

General Manager Loren Noess officially retired after his last day on Thursday, July 2. An open house for Manager Noess was held at the main office along Betts Road on Friday, July 26 from 2:00 - 4:30 pm.



Left: Retired employees in attendance at Loren's open house, including (back) Bob Weisz, Jerry Lenocker, Loyd Oleson, Loren Noess, (front) Rosemary Locken, Esther Pedersen, and Marge Schryvers



Right: Three generations of General Managers for the cooperative, (left-right) Loyd Oleson, Loren Noess, and Ken Schlimgen

In honor of Manager Noess' retirement and service to the state of South Dakota, Governor Dennis Daugaard issued an Executive Proclamation that July 1, 2015 be declared “Loren Noess Day”:

***Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor***

Whereas, South Dakota was founded with hard work, perseverance, dedication to duty, and concern for others, and each of these attributes can be ascribed to Loren Noess, who will be retiring after 46 years of service with South Dakota's rural electric cooperatives; and,

Whereas, Loren began his career with the electric cooperatives in 1969 at Sioux Valley Empire Electric Association and became General Manager in 1990 for the former Intercounty Electric Association and later Tri-County Electric Cooperative before the two consolidated as Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. in January 2000, overseeing the service of Davison, Hanson, Miner, Sanborn, Jerauld, Aurora, Brule and Buffalo counties; and,

Whereas, Loren serves as an active and willing member of his home community of Mitchell, is a valued citizen of South Dakota, and exemplifies leadership within state and national electric cooperatives, having served on numerous boards and organizations and frequently holding leadership positions, including being appointed in 2006 to the South Dakota State Fair Commission by Governor M. Michael Rounds; and,

Whereas, in 2013, Loren was inducted into the South Dakota Cooperative Hall of Fame, which provides recognition for those who have contributed in especially significant ways to the enhancement of the cooperative idea, broader acceptance, or advancement of the cooperative enterprise; and,

Whereas, Loren will retire on July 1, 2015 as General Manager of Central Electric Cooperative and devote his life to his family, including his wife Nancy, four sons, and grandchildren; and,

Whereas, It is fitting and proper as Governor to make special note of this outstanding South Dakotan on this momentous occasion:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim July 1, 2015, as Loren Noess Day in South Dakota, and I join his family, friends, and colleagues in offering him best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

Shining Brightly

LED Lights Brighten Regional Truck Stop

By
Brenda Kleinjan

FOR THE TRAVELING PUBLIC, A STOP AT A HIGHWAY truck stop is usually helpful for refueling one's vehicle and refreshing the driver with a quick dose of caffeine.

But for the observant, a stop at the Coffee Cup Truck Stop on Interstate 29 and SD Highway 50 at the Vermillion exit can be an illuminating experience.

In 2014, the truck stop replaced the lights in its parking lot with energy-efficient LED bulbs.

LED lights can also be seen at work at other Coffee Cups in the state.

In fact, across the country, truck stops are looking at more energy efficient lighting as a way to cut costs.

Since truck stops and travel plazas are typically open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the business is constantly using electricity. Many operators and owners of the businesses find that exploring ways to reduce the energy needed to run the business makes financial sense.

Among the many ways to reduce energy needs is to install LED lighting in their fuel canopies. Experts say that the move can be cost effective, with payback coming within less than two years in some cases. Payback is the point where cost savings in energy costs covers the expenses in making the efficient changes.

Another advantage of LED lighting is that the light is directed to a more focused area – namely the space directly below the bulbs.

The Coffee Cup at Vermillion went the extra step to replace its general overhead parking lights with the LED models.

Inside the stores, many operators have also looked at replacing lighting in coolers as well. Switching from fluorescent bulbs to LED lighting in the coolers can have a 2.5-year payback.

Retrofit kits are available that let operators swap out fluorescent bulbs in coolers with LED, typically with a 2.5-year payback.

Truck stops and travel plazas are not the only



Eight Things to Know about LEDs

8. A light-emitting diode, or LED, is a type of solid-state lighting that uses a semiconductor to convert electricity into light. Today's LED bulbs can be six to seven times more energy efficient than conventional incandescent lights and cut energy use by more than 80 percent.

7. Good-quality LED bulbs can have a useful life of 25,000 hours or more — meaning they can last more than 25 times longer than traditional light bulbs. That is a life of more than three years if run 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

6. Unlike incandescent bulbs — which release 90 percent of their energy as heat — LEDs use energy far more efficiently with little wasted heat.

5. From traffic lights and vehicle brake lights to TVs and display cases, LEDs are used in a wide range of applications because of their unique characteristics, which include compact size, ease of maintenance, resistance to breakage, and the ability to focus the light in a single direction instead of having it go every which way.

4. LEDs contain no mercury, and a recent Energy Department study determined that LEDs have a much smaller environmental impact than incandescent bulbs. They also have an edge over compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) that's expected to grow over the next few years as LED technology continues its steady improvement.

3. Since the Energy Department started funding solid-state lighting R&D in 2000, these projects have received 58 patents. Some of the most successful projects include developing new ways to use materials, extract more light, and solve the underlying technical challenges. Most recently, the Energy Department announced five new projects that will focus on cutting costs by improving manufacturing equipment and processes.

2. The first visible-spectrum LED was invented by Nick Holonyak, Jr., while working for GE in 1962. Since then, the technology has rapidly advanced and costs have dropped tremendously, making LEDs a viable lighting solution. Between 2011 and 2012, global sales of LED replacement bulbs increased by 22 percent while the cost of a 60-watt equivalent LED bulb fell by nearly 40 percent. By 2030, it's estimated that LEDs will account for 75 percent of all lighting sales.

1. In 2012, about 49 million LEDs were installed in the U.S. — saving about \$675 million in annual energy costs. Switching entirely to LED lights over the next two decades could save the U.S. \$250 billion in energy costs, reduce electricity consumption for lighting by nearly 50 percent and avoid 1,800 million metric tons of carbon emissions.

This article is part of the Energy.gov series highlighting the "Top Things You Didn't Know"



type of businesses exploring lighting efficiency.

U.S. Department of Energy's Better Buildings Alliance supported the Lighting Energy Efficiency in Parking (LEEP) Campaign. More than 100 U.S. businesses and organizations are participated in the campaign and are planning or installing energy efficient lighting in their parking lots and garages. These organizations have committed to install efficient lighting across more than 270 million square feet of parking space — cutting energy use by up to 90 percent.

"By making parking lots and garages more energy efficient, our partners in the Lighting Energy Efficiency in Parking Campaign are saving energy, improving their bottom lines and serving as models for other organizations to increase the use of energy efficiency in their communities," said Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy David Danielson.

Building owners spend more than \$6 billion to light their parking lots and garages, and much of this could be saved if parking lots and garages were upgraded to the most efficient lighting solutions. LEEP Campaign participants have upgraded their facilities to high efficiency metal halide, fluorescent, and LED solutions that last three times longer than their previous technology and by using controls are able to reduce energy use when parking facilities are not in use. Through the LEEP Campaign, the Energy Department's Better Buildings Alliance, the Building Owners and Managers Association, the Green Parking Council and the International Facility Management Association are working together to help owners of parking lots and garages upgrade to energy efficient lighting.

The Energy Department joined LEEP Campaign co-organizers to recognize 12 organizations for leading the way in efficient lighting. Combined, these 12 winners save nearly 45 million kilowatt-hours and \$4 million per year by upgrading to high efficiency lighting in 500,000 parking spaces nationwide.

Since 2009, the Energy Department's Better Buildings Alliance has provided technical assistance to help building and parking facility owners and managers install energy efficient lighting. Find more information on the Energy Department's broader efforts to save money by saving energy at U.S. parking facilities and a full list of the organizations recognized today.

Left: As dusk approaches, two styles of canopy lighting can be seen at the Coffee Cup fuel stop near Vivian, S.D. The canopies at the far left and far right use LED lighting which is bright in the immediate area but does not spill beyond where needed. The center canopy uses a different lighting style.

Above: The setting sun casts a glow over the Vivian Coffee Cup. The canopy to the south of the building employs efficient LED lights.

A Change for the Better

It's the Little Things

When it comes to energy efficiency in the home, sometimes small changes can make a big impact. A small, unglamorous task like changing the filters on your HVAC system makes your unit run more efficiently – keeping your house cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. It also saves money. And the savings gained from having your system run more efficiently can be applied to more fun or entertaining pursuits that your family can enjoy together.

The Lowdown on Dirt

As you move around your home, you drive dust into the air from carpets, furniture and drapes. Regardless of where it comes from, dust and dirt trapped in a system's air filter leads to several problems, including:

- Reduced air flow in the home and up to 15 percent higher operating costs
- Costly duct cleaning or replacement
- Lowered system efficiency

Making the Switch

Now, that you know the facts, it's time to get busy changing or cleaning the air filter in your heating/cooling system. Many HVAC professionals recommend that you clean or change the filter on your air conditioner or furnace monthly. It's simple and easy, and in many cases, it only takes a few minutes.

Filters are available in a variety of types and efficiencies, rated by a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV). MERV, a method developed by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, tests filter effectiveness. The higher the MERV number, the higher the filter's effectiveness at keeping dust out of your system. While most types of filters must be replaced, some filters are reusable. And don't forget about the winter months. Your heating system needs to work as efficiently as possible to keep you warm, and a clean air filter helps it do just that.

Heating and cooling professionals recommend turning your system off before changing the air filter. Make sure that the arrow on the filter – which indicates the direction of the airflow – is pointing toward the blower motor. When you've made the change, turn your system back on.

A Teachable Moment

Beyond saving money and improving the air quality in your home, changing your air filter is a great opportunity to teach your family more about energy efficiency. Consider getting everyone involved, and the entire family will learn how simple changes can make a big difference.

For other tips on how to save, visit togetherwesave.com or call the efficiency experts at Central Electric Cooperative at 800-477-2892.



Maintaining Your Air Conditioner

Annual maintenance can help improve your comfort and the efficiency of your air conditioner while prolonging the life of your unit. Hire a certified professional when your unit needs more than basic maintenance.

1

Routinely replace or clean your air filters. This can lower your air conditioner's energy consumption by 5-15 percent.

2

Check your air conditioner's evaporator coil every year and clean it as necessary.

3

If your coil fins are bent, use a "fin comb" to straighten them.

4

If you have a split system, be sure to clean debris and leaves from the fan, compressor, and condenser.

5

Occasionally pass a stiff wire through your unit's drain channels to prevent clogs.

6

For window air conditioners, inspect the window seals to keep cool air from escaping.

Source: Department of Energy

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Wednesdays in July & August

Weekly Tours of the Governor's Mansion, 30-minute tours will begin at 1 p.m. and will be conducted by volunteers, including the First Lady. Tour groups will consist of up to 40 people, Free tickets must be obtained in advance from the Pierre Chamber of Commerce at 605-224-7361

July 24

Storybook Land Festival
Aberdeen, SD
artsCouncil@nvc.net

July 24-26

Laura Ingalls Wilder Pageant
"By the Shores of Silver Lake"
DeSmet, SD, 800-776-3594 or
800-880-3383

July 24-26

24th Annual Honey Days
Bruce, SD, Find us on Facebook

July 24-26

Gold Discovery Days
Custer, SD, 605-673-2244

July 26

Folk Off & Rib Challenge
Renner, SD, 605-543-5071

July 30

Bad River Music Series –
BlackHawk, The Outlaws
Slamabama, Silver Spur
Fort Pierre, SD, 605-220-9405

July 31

Bad River Music Series – Little
Texas and The Beer Slingers
Fort Pierre, SD, 605-220-9405

PHOTO COURTESY OF S.D. DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM



To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

Events of Special Note

July 31-August 1

Jerauld/Buffalo 4-H
Achievement Days, Static Show
on Friday, Livestock on
Saturday, Jerauld County 4-H
Rodeo Grounds
Wessington Springs, SD

August 8-9

Threshing Show, Twin Brooks, SD
605-432-9487 or 605-432-7990

July 31-August 2

Desperado Days 2015
Rodeo Grounds, Kimball, SD
kimballsd.org or Facebook
"Desperado Days"

August 1

City-Wide Rummage
Sales, 8 a.m.
Wessington Springs, SD
Contact Mette Ness at
605-539-1712 or
605-730-2700

August 1

Foothills Classic Car & Tractor
Show, Noon to 4 p.m.
Wessington Springs, SD
Contact Dana Fagerhaug at
605-539-1805 or
605-350-1687 or Fred Knight
at 605-539-0283

August 1

Jerauld/Sanborn Relay For
Life, 5 to 10 p.m., Prior Lake
Woonsocket, SD, Contact Dave
Kogel 605-350-7731

August 2-8

Motorcycle Rally, Sturgis, SD
605-720-0800

August 5-9

Day County Fair
Webster, SD, 605-345-4668

August 7-9

Harvey Dunn Society Plein Air
'Paint Out', De Smet, SD
605-854-9011

August 8

Lake Eureka Carp Classic
Eureka, SD, ecdc@valleytel.net

August 10-16

Brown County Fair
Aberdeen, SD, 605-626-7116

August 13-16

American Island Days
American Creek Campground
Chamberlain, SD
<http://americanislanddays.com>

August 14-16

Black Hills Steam and Gas
Threshing Bee, Sturgis, SD
605-721-6967

August 15

21st Annual Lakers
Mighty Mo' Car Show
Registration 10 a.m. to noon
Car Show noon to 4 p.m.
American Creek Campground
Chamberlain, SD, boyd@
thielscollisioncenter.com or
dallasthompson@gmail.com

August 16

Bull-a-Rama, Redfield, SD
605-472-4550

September 12-13

Twin Rivers Old Harvest
Festival, Kuchen Festival
Delmont, SD, 605-779-5291

September 25-26

Holiday Arts Fall Craft Show
Masonic Temple, Mitchell, SD
Call Nancy at 605-248-2526
or email nanvan@santel.net